

VII.—*Obituary.*

## JOHN CYRIL CROWLEY.

We have again to deplore the loss of another of our members on the field of battle, this time in the swamps of Mesopotamia.

Captain Crowley was born at Croydon on December 2, 1877, and was the second son of Alexander Crowley, and the great-nephew of the late Philip Crowley, whose valuable collection of eggs is now one of the treasures of the Natural History Museum. He was educated at Wimborne and at Keble College, Oxford, where he took his degree in 1899. He then spent nearly a year at Oxford House, Bethnal Green, where he greatly interested himself in the boys' clubs and kindred matters. Later on he joined his father and brother in business, and became a most efficient member of their firm. From childhood he manifested great interest in animal life and specially in that of birds, following in the steps of his great-uncle Philip Crowley. He devoted all his holidays to the photography of birds and nests, chiefly in the Hebrides and Perthshire, and after many trials he obtained excellent photographs of the Great Northern Diver, Grey-Lag Goose and Capercaillie, the last-named on the estate of, and with the permission of, the Marquis of Breadalbane, who kindly gave him every facility. He contributed articles illustrated by his photographs to 'Country Life' and the 'Badminton Magazine,' and became a Member of the Union in 1903. He was gazetted to the 4th Battalion (Territorial) of the Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment some 12 or 13 years ago, and was given command of the Machine Gun Section, to which he devoted much time, passing examinations at Hythe and at Vickers & Maxim's. He was in camp in July 1914 when the regiment was mobilized at the outbreak of the War, and went with them to India in October. He was very anxious to see active service, and when officers were required for Mesopotamia

he volunteered at once and proceeded there in July 1916. He was given the command of a Machine Gun Battery, and was shortly afterwards killed in action at Nasiriych on September 11, 1916, when covering an infantry retreat. He was buried the same evening in the cemetery at that place. His Colonel writes:—"It is a great blow to us all, and to the Machine Gun Coy. to lose such a good officer. There was nothing he did not know about his work, and his cheery manner infected those around him and the men would do anything for him."

#### SAMUEL GILBERT SCOTT.

We regret to hear that Canon Scott, who was elected a Member of the Union in 1907, died suddenly on November 5 last. Born at Brighton on May 20, 1847, Scott was educated at Brighton College and at Magdalen College, Oxford, where he secured a demyship. Entering the Church in 1873 he held several preferments and was Rector of Havant in Hampshire from 1892 to 1915. He was also Rural Dean, 1900 to 1915, and appointed Hon. Canon of Winchester in 1905. His activities in the ecclesiastical world were very considerable, and he was very well known and highly respected in the south of Hampshire. He was interested in wild-life of every sort, and made frequent excursions to Scotland for fishing and for observing birds, though, so far as we are aware, he never published in ornithology.

#### RALPH WILLIAM FRANKLAND PAYNE-GALLWEY.

Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey of Thirkleby Park, Thirsk, who was a Member of the Union from 1885 to 1898, died on November 24 last at the age of sixty-eight. Born in 1848 the eldest son of the second Baronet, whom he succeeded in 1881, Sir Ralph Payne-Gallwey was educated at Eton. He was a very famous wild-fowler, and it was on his knowledge of the habits and haunts of wild-fowl, gained through many years shooting and trapping, that his claim

to the title of ornithologist chiefly rests. He was a considerable author not only on sporting subjects but also on antiquarian matters. His first two works, "The Fowler in Ireland 1882" and "The book of Duck Decoys 1886," are well known to all sportsmen, and were noticed in 'The Ibis' at the time of their appearance. The latter volume especially contains much out of the way information about the habits and occurrence of British Ducks. His other best-known work is the "Letters to Young Shooters" in three volumes, 1891-96, the third volume of which contains a useful description of all the wild-fowl met with in Great Britain. Another work published only in 1913, "High Pheasants in Theory and in Practice," is of more interest to the pure sportsman. Sir Ralph earned the gratitude of those interested in the former state of our avifauna by having the ancient sign of the Dotterel Inn, which stands on the Yorkshire wolds, restored, after it had been sadly ill-used by a local artist who had repaired it.

#### JOACHIM CHARLES HARTERT.

The sympathy of all the Members of the Union will go out to Dr. Hartert, whose only son fell in action on October 28 of last year. Joachim Charles Hartert was born November 2, 1893. He was educated at Berkhamsted School and at Wadham College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1914. A member of the O. T. C., he obtained a commission in the East Yorkshire Regiment on the outbreak of the War. He had been at the front for over a year and was slightly wounded in the early days of the great advance. He was a frequent guest at the dinners and meetings of the B. O. C. and was thus well-known to many of us. The 'Oxford Sacrifice' of November 10 writes:—"Strong, sensible, and hard working, he had kept the virtues of his German descent while he was himself a loyal young Englishman of the best type."